



*Presentation to the Maryland General Assembly by:*

Serena McIlwain, Secretary-Designate

Dr. Suzanne Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

Chris Hoagland, Director, Air and Radiation Administration

*January 25, 2023*

# Maryland Commission on Climate Change

## *Purpose*

Advise the Governor and General Assembly on ways to:

mitigate the causes of,  
prepare for,  
and adapt to

the consequences of climate change.



# Maryland Commission on Climate Change

## *History*

**2007** The Commission was originally established by executive order.

**2009** The Commission produced a climate action plan that was the catalyst for the original Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act.

**2014** A second executive order expanded the scope of the Commission and its membership.

**2015** The Commission was codified into law.

**2022** Four New Working Groups were added to the Commission in the Climate Solutions Now Act.

The Commission is an independent, statutory body and all meetings are open to the public with time set aside for their comments.

# Maryland Commission on Climate Change

## *Membership*

Representatives from state agencies, the legislature, private, and non-profit organizations

- ❖ Chair, Co-Chairs (MDE Secretary or designee is chair)
- ❖ Standing Members (Executive Cabinet members)
- ❖ Governor Appointed Members
- ❖ Senate President Appointed Members
- ❖ House Speaker Appointed Members
- ❖ Local Government representatives appointed by MACO & MML

Meets quarterly and votes on the recommendations to advance the annual report at the final meeting of the year.

# Commission Leadership

**Serena McIlwain — Chair (or her designee)**

Secretary-Designate, Maryland Department of Environment



**Anne Linder — Co-chair**

Vice President, Government and External Affairs at Pepco Holdings



**Kim Coble — Co-chair**

Executive Director, Maryland League of Conservation Voters



**Charmaine Brown — Co-chair and head of the Commission's Climate Justice team**

Chief Diversity Officer and Foundation President



The Commission is supported primarily by MDE, also DNR And UMCES staff.

# Climate Justice Team

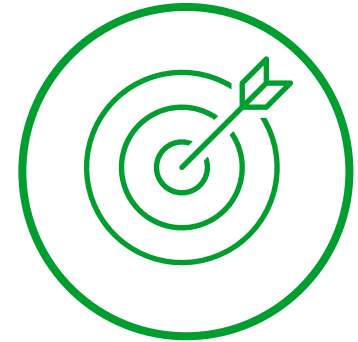
This internal team consists of a liaison from each of the working groups and is headed by co-chair Charmaine Brown.

**EMBEDDING CJ REVIEWERS  
HELPS TO ENSURE  
CONSISTENT APPLICATION  
OF EQUITY LENS ACROSS  
WORKING GROUPS**

The CJ Team reviews Commission product, especially the annual report of recommendations, with an equity lens, asking:

- ❖ Who does this recommendation benefit?
- ❖ Who is burdened by a recommendation and how does it impact the most vulnerable?
- ❖ Who was involved in the recommendation?
- ❖ What or who might be missing?
- ❖ What data and knowledge did we validate and with whom?
- ❖ Were key stakeholders involved?

## *The Commission informs ways to meet Maryland's climate targets:*



- ❖ Reduce GHG emissions by 60% by 2031, (from 2006 baseline)
- ❖ Reach net-zero emissions by 2045

MDE is developing the final plan due by the end of 2023.

# Maryland Commission on Climate Change

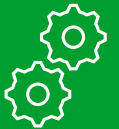
## *Working Groups*



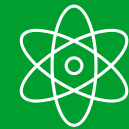
Adaptation and  
Resiliency



Education,  
Communication,  
Outreach



Greenhouse Gas  
Mitigation



Scientific and  
Technical



# Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group (ARWG)

Chair - Josh Kurtz, Department of Natural Resources Secretary

- Quarterly meetings held online, are open to the public, and a portion of each meeting is set aside for public comment
- ARWG supports the Commission by developing a comprehensive strategy for reducing Maryland's climate change vulnerability
- Provides state and local governments with tools to plan for and adapt to extreme weather, sea level rise, and saltwater intrusion



# Science and Technical Working Group (STWG)

Chair - Dr. Peter Goodwin, UMCES President

- Quarterly meetings held online, are open to the public, and a portion of each meeting is set aside for public comment
- STWG updates and informs the MCCC on the science of climate change
- Members embody both public and private interests to ensure a well-balanced direction and broad expertise.
- Tracks recent scientific and engineering literature including the synthesis reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Assist state agencies in bridging across synergistic programs



# Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Working Group (MWG)

Michael Powell – co-chair

Member of Gordon Feinblatt's Energy & Environmental Practice Group



Kim Coble – co-chair

Executive Director of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters



- Monthly meetings held online, are open to the public, and a portion of each meeting is set aside for public comment
- Supports the charge of the Commission for proposing regulatory, market-based, and voluntary programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while supporting economic development and job creation.

# Education, Communication and Outreach Working Group (ECO)

Amy Lambert, co-chair  
EA Engineering



Jabari Walker, co-chair  
Bowie State



- ECO handles the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's public relations
- ECO members work to educate Marylanders of all ages on climate change, and to inform them about what the Commission is doing to address climate change's impacts on our state.
- ECO produces a series of webinars called "Commission Talk" that include an annual end-of-year discussion with the MCCC leaders about their recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly, which are published in an annual report each November 15.
- ECO has asked the GA for funding to assist Marylanders in helping to understand and meet Maryland's GHG emissions reduction goals of 60% reduction by 2031 and net-zero by 2045.

# Four new Working Groups (CSNA)

- Just Transition Employment and Retraining Working Group
  - 32 members studying workforce development
- Energy Industry and Revitalization Working Group
  - 19 members studying the impacts on small businesses of the transition to renewable energy
- Energy Resilience and Efficiency Working Group
  - 13 members on infrastructure improvements
- Solar Photovoltaic Systems Recovery, Reuse and Recycling Working Group
  - 14 members studying the recycling of solar cells

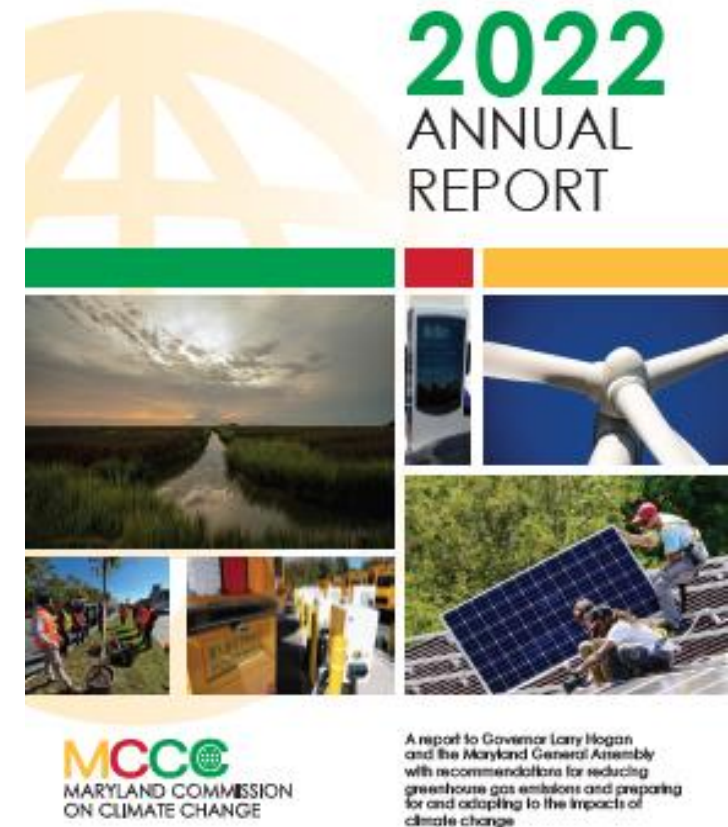
Work is ongoing to implement these new Working Groups



# The MCCC Annual Report (since 2015)

Annual set of policy recommendations for the Governor, General Assembly, State Agencies, and University System to accelerate climate change response from each of the working groups.

Selected recommendations for General Assembly action follow.



# 2022 Recommendations for MGA Action (1/3)

## Scientific and Technical Working Group:

- Create a targeted Climate and Equity Innovation Fund managed by the existing Maryland Energy Innovation Institute (MEI2)/Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) program that will directly provide funding to create scientific and engineering innovation to address climate change.

## Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group:

- Use short, plain (non-scientific and brief) language in bill titles, goals, and names of commissions, task forces, and working groups.
- Adequately fund and develop a statewide climate awareness campaign overseen by ECO to help local governments and Marylanders to find and utilize resources available to them to engage in climate solutions.



# 2022 Recommendations for MGA Action (2/3)

## Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Working Group:

### *Transportation*

- Set an aspirational target for 75% of newly registered light-duty vehicles to be Zero-Emissions Vehicles (ZEV) and plug-in hybrids by 2030.
- Require MDE to propose regulations for a Low Carbon Fuel Standard.
- Provide funding for vehicle charging equipment in multi-dwelling buildings.
- Make changes to the Maryland Commuter Choice Program, including incentives, with the goal of increasing the participating employers to at least 500 in 2024.
- Provide funding for regional and local micro transit services.
- Require recertification of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) areas.

### *Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency*

- Numerous measures to accelerate solar energy deployment.
- Establish specific goals for energy programs administered by DHCD and direct the PSC to provide commensurate EmPOWER budget.



# 2022 Recommendations for MGA Action (3/3)

## Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Working Group:

### *Building Decarbonization*

- Address the PSC “Recommendations on the future of EmPOWER Maryland”
- Provide incentives for all-electric new construction compliance pathways within the 2024 energy code
- Additional EmPOWER reforms
- Direct the PSC to manage a structured and just transition for the buildings sector, including gas utility transition plans
- Authorize MDE to develop a zero-emissions standard for space and water heating equipment
- Modify thermal renewable energy credit eligibility for woody biomass systems in the Renewable Portfolio Standard, and establish a thermal energy-specific program

### *Methane Management*

- Provide matching funds to local jurisdictions to install methane capture systems at landfills and wastewater plants



**THANK YOU – Please visit  
our website for more information**

[www.mde.maryland.gov/MCCC](http://www.mde.maryland.gov/MCCC)

Contact:

[Chris.Hoagland@maryland.gov](mailto:Chris.Hoagland@maryland.gov)

Additional Slides:



# Climate Commission Roster

## **Leadership**

- Secretary Serena McIlwain - Chair
- Anne Lindner Commission Co-Chair
- Kim Coble Commission Co-Chair

## **Leadership/Climate Justice**

- Charmaine Brown - Commission Co-Chair



# Climate Commission Roster

## **Standing Members**

- Dereck E. Davis - State Treasurer
- Mohammed Choudhury - Superintendent of Maryland Schools
- Kevin Atticks - Department of Agriculture Secretary
- Josh Kurtz - Department of Natural Resources Secretary appointee
- Atif Chaudhry - Department of General Services Secretary
- TBA - Department of Transportation Secretary
- Rebecca Flora - Department of Planning Acting Secretary

# Climate Commission Roster

## **Standing Members**


- Paul Pinsky - Maryland Energy Administration Director
- Dr. Peter Goodwin - President of UMCES
- Wayne Stafford - Maryland Farm Bureau
- Charles Deegan - Chair, Critical Area Commission
- Dr. Russell Dickerson - Climate Change Expert
- Dr. Jane Kirschling - Public Health Expert
- David Lapp - Office of People's Counsel

# Climate Commission Roster

## **Senate President Appointed Members**

- TBA
- Jesse Iliff - Environmental NPO Representative
- Michael Powell - Business Community Representative
- Jim Strong - Organized Labor Representative

## **House Speaker Appointed Members**

- Dana Stein - Delegate
  - Beth Harber - Philanthropic Organization Representative
  - Anne Lindner - Business Community Representative
  - David Smedick - Environmental NPO Representative
  - Gerald Jackson - Organized Labor Representative
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# Climate Commission Roster

## **Local Government Appointees**

- Charles County Administrator Mark Belton - Maryland Association of Counties
- Town of St. Michael's Commissioner Michael Bibb - Maryland Municipal League





# ARWG Initiatives and Recent Progress

- Implementation of the Saltwater Intrusion Plan
- Expanded the Targeted Resiliency Area effort to serve as a prioritization tool for the larger-scale funding opportunities that are emerging
- The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Soil Health Advisory Committee approved recommendations to advance practice adoption through Maryland's Healthy Soils Program.
- The State submitted an addendum to address additional load reductions required for Integrating Climate Change into the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan in order to meet Total Maximum Daily Load endpoints by 2025



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# ARWG Recommendations (*not for MGA action*)

- State agencies that are represented on ARWG should collaboratively develop Maryland's Next Generation Adaptation Plan: 10 Year Roadmap to Resilience
- ARWG agencies should use the resilience strategies identified in the Draft Maryland Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework Recommendations: 2021 - 2030 to develop a Next Generation Adaptation Plan which will span a 10- year roadmap to resilience and help meet the state's GHG reduction goals.
- Agencies will be assigned specific deliverables, in consultation with those agencies, and report progress to the Commission. Legislative priorities will be forwarded to the General Assembly and the governor for consideration.
- The Next Generation Adaptation Plan should develop an effective tracking system and develop an online platform to communicate adaptation progress across the state and should be completed in one year.

# STWG Initiatives and Recent Progress

- Activities include the completion of a webinar series on Blue Carbon
- A report on the potential for carbon sequestration in Maryland's tidal marshes (with ARWG)
- Contributions to the update of Maryland's Ocean Acidification Plan
- Technical support of the Saltwater Intrusion Plan
- Tracked and provided summary reports of the IPCC working groups and special reports contributing to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) including the recently released 6th assessment report



# MWVG Initiatives and Recent Progress

- In 2022 the MWVG focused on decarbonizing the transportation sector, which is the largest source of GHG emissions in Maryland (and the nation)
- The MWVG coordinated the Biomass to Energy Subgroup, which developed recommendations for modifying the thermal renewable energy program within the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard
- MWVG will advise a subgroup to further develop recommendations for accelerating the transition to light-duty zero emissions vehicles and aims to have recommendations ready for the MWVG in early 2023

